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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/745,546	12/26/2000	Ichiro Okajima	201339US2	8730
22850	7590	12/17/2003		
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
			EXAMINER ENG, GEORGE	
			ART UNIT 2643	PAPER NUMBER 10

DATE MAILED: 12/17/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/745,546

Applicant(s)

OKAJIMA ET AL.

Examiner

George Eng

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 September 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This Office action is in response to the amendment filed 9/12/2003 (paper no. 9).

Drawings

2. The drawings were received on 9/12/2003 (paper no. 9). These drawings are approved.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

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4. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ahuja et al. (US PAT. 5,689,553 hereinafter Ahuja) in view of Bruno et al. (US PAT. 6,020,915 hereinafter Bruno).

Regarding claim 1, Ahuja discloses a communication method comprising managing terminal management information associated with a plurality of communication terminals of a user (abstract and col. 6 lines 30-43), identifying one or more communication terminals of the plurality of communication terminals that can accept a call by referring the terminal management information associated with the plurality of communication terminals managed in the managing step when a call address to the user is initiated by an initiated communication terminal, separating information involving in the call into respective items of information to be sent to the one or more identified terminals, and converting the respective items of information received from one or more identified terminals into information to be sent to the initiating communication terminals that initiates the call in order to connect diverse equipments between users, so that a virtual terminal is formed to communicate with the initiating communication terminal (col. 6 line 44 through col. 9 line 13 and col. 14 line 48 through col. 15 line 58). Ahuja differs from the claimed invention in not specifically teaching to identify those communication terminals of the plurality of communication terminals by referring to an ability need for a type of communication involved in the call and combine respective items of information received from those identified communication terminals into information to be sent to the initiating communication terminal. However, Bruno teaches a technique to provide extended capabilities to enable user at a limited video capabilities endpoint interacting with user at multimedia endpoints by identifying those terminals of the limited video capabilities end user that can accept a call by referring to an ability

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needed for a type of communication involved in the call when the call addressed to the user at the limited video capabilities endpoint by the user at multimedia endpoint, combining respective items of information received from those identified communication terminals, i.e., facsimile and telephone, into information to be set to the user at multimedia endpoint (col. 5 line 18 through col. 8 line 63). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ahuja in having the steps of identifying those communication terminals of the plurality of communication terminals by referring to an ability need for a type of communication involved in the call and combining respective items of information received from those identified communication terminals into information to be sent to the initiating communication terminal, as per teaching of Bruno, in order to provide extended capabilities to enable user at a limited video capabilities endpoint interacting with user at multimedia endpoints, thereby making user friendly.

Regarding claim 2, Ahuja teaches to convert the respective items of information separated in the separating step into corresponding item of information coded according to respective information coding scheme employed in said one or more identified communication terminals and vice versa (col. 6 line 44 through col. 7 line 6).

Regarding claim 3, Ahuja discloses the terminal management information including predetermined communication abilities of the plurality of communication terminals (col. 13 line 58 through col. 14 line 14).

Regarding claim 4, the limitations of the claim are rejected as the same reasons set forth in claim 1.

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Regarding claim 5, the limitations of claim are rejected as the same reasons set forth in claim 2.

Regarding claim 6, the limitations of claim are rejected as the same reasons set forth in claim 3.

Regarding claim 7, Ahuja discloses to compress and expand the respective items of information in accordance with communication abilities of said one or more communication terminals (col. 16 lines 24-27).

Regarding claim 8, Ahuja discloses to filter the respective items of information in accordance with communication abilities of one or more communication terminals (col. 12 lines 22-45).

Regarding claim 9, the limitations of the claim are rejected as the same reasons set forth in claim 1.

Regarding claim 10, Ahuja discloses the plurality of communication terminals including communication terminals coupled to the virtual terminal configuring device via a radio communication interface (figure 1 and col. 5 lines 38-44).

Regarding claim 11, Ahuja discloses the plurality of communication terminal including communication terminals coupled to the virtual terminal configuring device via a network (figure 1 and col. 5 lines 53-63).

Regarding claims 12, 13, 15 and 17, the limitations of the claim are rejected as the same reasons set forth in claim 1.

Regarding claims 14 and 16, the limitations of the claim are rejected as the same reasons set forth in claim 2.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any response to this final action should be mailed to:

BOX AF

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington D.C. 20231

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Or faxed to:

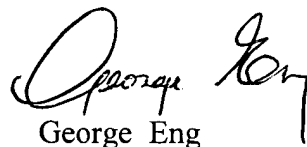
(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,
Arlington, V.A., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

~~8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the~~
examiner should be directed to George Eng whose telephone number is 703-308-9555. The
examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday to Friday from 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's
supervisor, Curtis A. Kuntz, can be reached on (703) 305-4870. The fax phone number for the
organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-308-6306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding
should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.



George Eng
Examiner
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